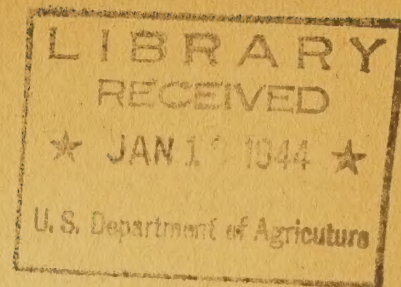


1913
DREIX



1944

8-POINT MILK-PRODUCTION PROGRAM

What to Do! And Why!

1. Grow more legume hay, pasturage, and grain
2. Fertilize to increase quantity and quality of feed
3. Feed to avoid summer milk slump
4. Feed cows liberally during their dry period
5. Keep as many cows as feed and labor permit
6. Market whole milk whenever possible
7. Produce good-quality milk and avoid waste
8. Breed for better herd replacements

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What to Do!

1. Grow more legume hay, pasturage, and grain

And Why!

Concentrated feeds are expensive and difficult to obtain. Fortunately, the dairy cow is so constituted that she can use large amounts of roughage for milk production; the more she gets and the better the quality, the less concentrated feed she will need to make the ration complete.

Faced with the difficulty of obtaining high-protein concentrates, most dairy farmers will have to rely largely on home-grown grains and on good-quality roughage. With an abundance of good pasturage and good legume hay or good grass silage to supply much of the needed protein, farm-grown grains will balance the dairy ration.

More milk can be produced if the supply of hay, silage, and pasturage is enough to keep every cow in the herd fed up to the limit of her appetite every day in the year. The forage for winter feeding should contain plenty of legumes; the need for high-protein concentrates will then be reduced materially.

The quality of the roughage must be good enough so that cows will eat lots of it. Cutting hay before it matures and handling it carefully to save leaves increases its protein content and palatability. Much of the hay could be protected from weather damage better by putting it in the silo. Richer corn silage can be produced by using heavy grain producing varieties and planting thinner so the ears will develop.

What to Do!

2. Fertilize to increase quantity and quality of feed

And Why!

Much of the good pasture and hay land has been plowed up and put into grain crops. Many dairymen face a shortage of pasturage -- the best feed for milk production and usually the cheapest feed.

To get as much pasturage in 1944 as will be needed, most dairymen will find it necessary to improve the pastures they still have and also, perhaps, to grow some annual crop for temporary or supplemental pasture.

Very few of the dairy cows in this country have ever had all the good pasturage and good hay they could eat day in and day out; but if pastures and hay crops were improved sufficiently to supply the necessary quantity and quality of roughage for such feeding, the use of concentrates could be reduced by one-third or more without any loss in milk production.

Nothing excels well-rotted barnyard manure for improving pasture and hay yields. It should be used as far as it will go, and commercial fertilizers and lime should be used in the way advised by the local county agent.

Experimental results indicate that on the average 4 or 5 pounds of dry matter will be produced for each 1 pound of fertilizer applied to land in forage crops. Fertilization pays on pasture and hay crops as well as on grain crops. Supplies of fertilizers are generally available and applications can be made with very little labor.

What to Do!

3. Feed to avoid summer milk slump

And Why!

Every year milk production drops in July and August and continues at a low level through the fall. The summer slump in milk flow is caused partly by flies and hot weather, but mostly by a lack of feed during the pasture season.

Many farmers depend too much on pasture alone for summer feeding. Cows eat very much less grass when it is short and after it has formed seed. Moreover, it is physically impossible for a cow to graze her fill of short grass unless it is very thick, and after the grass has gone to seed it is unpalatable and also lower in nutritive value.

It is easy to be deceived by the appearance of a pasture. Usually it is not as good as it looks and many farmers make the mistake of waiting too long before they start to give the grazing cows supplemental feed. Loss of flesh and undue declines in milk production are reliable indications of a lack of feed; but by the time these conditions are noticeable, no amount of extra feed will restore the milk flow to where it would have been had the cows been fed enough from the start.

To guard against mistakes in judgment of pastures, it is a good practice to give all milking cows an opportunity to eat all the hay they want throughout the pasture season. Grass silage and also corn silage can be used to advantage if the herd is of such size that the silage will be consumed fast enough to prevent spoilage. Grain feeding should also be kept up, especially to the higher producing cows.

What to Do!

4. Feed cows liberally during their dry period

And Why!

It is well known that a cow will give more milk if she is in good flesh at calving time than if she is thin.

To be in good condition at calving time, a cow should continue to get liberal quantities of good roughage after she goes dry; she can then be put in good flesh with a minimum amount of concentrates. In fact, if she has been well fed during her lactation period, she will need very little concentrated feed during the dry period. But if she has not been well fed it will be better to feed concentrates liberally, along with the good roughage, than to have her thin at calving time.

In general cows will produce the most milk if they are allowed a dry period of about 2 months. Milking a cow right up to a week or two before calving time may reduce her production in the next lactation by as much as 15 percent. On the other hand, if she is turned dry more than 2 months before calving time, more milk will be lost in the current lactation period than will be gained in the next.

What to Do!

5. Keep as many cows as feed and labor permit

And Why!

Since every milking cow should have all the forage she can eat at all times, in order to produce milk at the lowest cost, the size of the herd should be adjusted to the amount of forage that can be made available for feeding.

Some farms, especially those with only a few cows, are likely to be understocked, in which case an effort should be made to add enough good cows and heifers to turn the entire supply of forage into milk. Other farms may be overstocked with respect to the forage supply, in which case it is better to reduce the size of the herd than to reduce the amount of forage allowed each cow.

Every farmer should estimate carefully his probable production of pasturage, hay, and silage, and decide on the basis of his previous experience whether the amount will be ample for the herd. There is no advantage in keeping more cows than can be provided with adequate amounts of these roughage feeds. Some cows would fail to get enough forage, and more concentrates would have to be fed to compensate for the shortage.

Where satisfactory markets for milk are available, many dairymen who normally keep only a few cows and who depend on family labor will find it advantageous to increase the size of the herd enough to utilize all the forage they can produce.

What to Do!

6. Market whole milk whenever possible

And Why!

The wartime demand for all dairy products calls for delivery of the whole milk whenever possible. Moreover, once the whole milk has reached the processing plant, the skim milk, buttermilk, and whey can be made to serve wartime needs to better advantage, because larger quantities can be converted into human foods.

In addition, wherever a market for the whole milk exists or can be developed, it will generally pay better to sell the whole milk rather than only the cream or butter. A large part of the skim milk, buttermilk, and whey fed to farm animals is vitally needed for human food; and these products can be used much more efficiently if they are prepared for direct consumption as human food than if they are first turned into meat and eggs.

In the past, for want of a profitable market, many dairymen have fed more skim milk to their calves, hogs, and poultry than was actually needed for satisfactory nutrition. Every effort should be made this year to find a market for whole milk and to reduce the amounts of both whole milk and skim milk fed to calves and other farm animals, by the use of milk-saving feeds.

What to Do!

7. Produce good-quality milk and avoid waste

And Why!

It has always been good business for dairy farmers to produce good quality milk. The prosperity of every dairy farmer and the growth of a sound dairy industry are inseparably linked with good quality in all dairy products.

This year it is not only good business to produce good quality milk, it is an obligation on the part of every dairyman to his country. Milk not usable at the dairy plant because it is not of the desirable quality deprives the Nation of vital food and reduces the income of the farmer.

Neither the farmer nor the Nation can afford to waste feed and labor and time in the production of unsalable milk. Only good quality milk will make good quality dairy products. The cheese, evaporated milk, and powdered milks for overseas shipment must be of good keeping quality to withstand severe conditions of transit and long storage.

Herds must be kept free from disease not only to produce more milk but to produce milk that can be marketed. Sanitary methods of production and proper cooling of the milk are essential to avoid wasted milk and wasted effort.

What to Do!

8. Breed for better herd replacements

And Why!

The Nation needs all the milk that American dairymen can produce, and the demand for large quantities of dairy products will not end with 1944.

This is no time for dairymen to slacken their efforts to breed better cows to replace those that must eventually be discarded for one reason or another. Better cows will always be needed for more efficient production of milk. High-producing cows make the most profit for the dairyman under all conditions, and they may even be more essential in the postwar period than they are now.

No dairy herd is ever good enough, nor as good as it can be made. Good proved sires offer the most promise for improvement, whether their service is available as individual herd sires or through a cooperative breeding association. The sons of such sires afford the next best opportunity.

By using the best bulls available at all times, dairy farmers will gradually increase the proportion of high-producing heifers born and raised in their herds.

